

University of Michigan Law School University of Michigan Law School Scholarship Repository

Res Gestae

Law School History and Publications

1963

Vol. 14, No. 6, March 15, 1963

University of Michigan Law School

Follow this and additional works at: http://repository.law.umich.edu/res_gestae

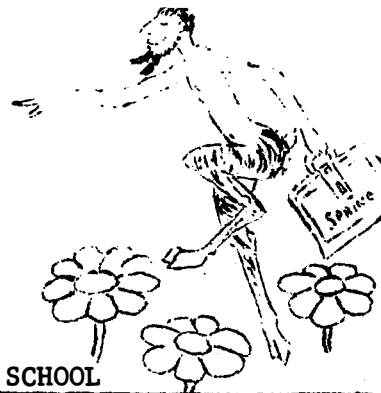


Part of the [Legal Education Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

University of Michigan Law School, "Vol. 14, No. 6, March 15, 1963" (1963). *Res Gestae*. Paper 953.
http://repository.law.umich.edu/res_gestae/953

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Law School History and Publications at University of Michigan Law School Scholarship Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Res Gestae by an authorized administrator of University of Michigan Law School Scholarship Repository. For more information, please contact mlaw.repository@umich.edu.



THE FIRST YEAR OF LEGAL TELEVISION: Television is giving a big assist to the University of Michigan Law School in training better lawyers with more professional responsibility.

So says Charles W. Joiner, associate dean of the Law School, in reviewing the first year of operation of the closed-circuit television link between the Washtenaw Circuit Court and Hutchins Hall. This new electronic device, says Joiner, brings back into legal education some portion of what was lost when the system of apprenticeship training was supplanted by classroom instruction. The latter system is much more effective, but with television students can be assisted to see problems in the enforcement of justice that cannot be covered in the classroom, he says.

Prof. Joiner was the prime mover in establishing the TV link between the Law School and the court presided over by Judge James R. Breakey, Jr., often described as "the busiest one-man court in Michigan." Financed almost entirely by Law School alumni contributions and formally dedicated and put into operation early in 1962, this was the first such hook-up between courtroom and classroom ever attempted. "We were pioneers," says Joiner, "and we are still experimenting. But television during the first year has more than lived up to our expectations." Inquiries from schools as far away as England have been received.

Several Law School classes require students to spend a certain number of hours in a special Hutchins Hall viewing room, designated as an "adjunct courtroom," observing what goes on in the Circuit Court. They see such a "varied fare," explains Prof. Joiner, that they quickly develop a keener appreciation of the amount of preparation necessary to take a case to court, and of the great cooperation necessary between judge and attorneys.

"We find that students have the capacity to learn by this observation and to evaluate critically what they see," Prof. Joiner says. "It is not essential at all times to have an experienced lawyer in the viewing room." For the first time, he continues, most students begin to appreciate the many and varied problems that pass through a court. It is possible for only a limited number of these problems to be covered in the regular Law School curriculum. "Students tell me they have a much different attitude toward the practice of law after observing the court in action through television," Prof. Joiner states. "The change is in the direction of more professional responsibility toward solving the problems of clients." This professional responsibility he feels is the main benefit derived by students from close and extended observation of a court at work. They learn that a courtroom is a place where people come with grave problems that must be solved, and is not just a backdrop for an exercise of legal knowledge.

CONDITIONS OF COOK: Through the generosity of William W. Cook, the Law Quadrangle was created as it stands today. This generosity has also given rise to a belief that there were numerous conditions placed upon this grant; especially concerning the Lawyers Club. An attempt is herein made to resolve this serious problem of what, if any, were the conditions upon which Cook made his grants.

Because the supposed conditions are numerous, and in fear of missing some if each were to be negated separately, we shall start with the premise that no conditions exist, other than those enumerated below. These may be said to be the only ones which have a valid basis.

Although much correspondence was exchanged between Mr. Cook and various people in the University during the period over which these gifts were made, there are four principal instruments by which Cook stipulated the conditions to be placed on his gifts. These are three letters, which may be considered as offers of gift, and his will. The first letter is dated April 4, 1922, and is the offer to build the Lawyers Club. (Included therein were the dining hall, social room, and entries A to J.) With this gift the following conditions may be said to arise: 1) That the University of Michigan was to furnish free of charge to the Club, heat, light and power. (Cook always felt that the University should maintain and repair these buildings in the same manner as they do other buildings.) 2) That the buildings be called the Lawyers Club. 3) It is to be controlled and operated by the Board of Governors, the make up of which he also designated. 4) "Going prices shall be charged for room and board." and 5) The profits derived from the operation of the Club were to be used for legal research. It was Cook's intention to create a profit making enterprise to underwrite the cost of research rather than merely placing money in trust for such purpose. These may be considered as the only conditions that he placed on his gift of the Lawyers Club and upon which it was opened for the first time in the Fall of 1923.

In January of 1929, Mr. Cook, in another letter to the regents, offered to build a legal research building. He again placed the burden of general maintenance and of supplying heat, light and power free of charge, on the University. With this letter, he also declared that as a condition of this gift, the Lawyers Club was "not to be used for accommodation of Summer students or schools," nor any organization meetings or conventions. He requested that no publicity be given the donor.

Finally, in a third letter dated April 4, 1929, he offered an addition to the Lawyers Club. This is the present John P. Cook building which he requested to be named in honor of his father. He also incorporated the conditions of the two previous letters as a part of this gift. In the event another building is constructed on the southeast corner of the quadrangle, he asked that it be called the Thomas M. Cooley building. The John P. Cook building was completed in 1930, and the legal research building in 1931.

William W. Cook died June 4, 1930. In his will he first provided for his debts, then for certain relations, employees, and friends. His estate in New York was given to the Presbyterian Hospital in the City of New York, with the condition that if such property is not used in their operations or an attempt is made to mortgage, lease, or sell such property, it is to revert to the residuary clause wherein the Law School is beneficiary. (Note should be taken that this is the exact opposite of the common belief that the Law Quadrangle would revert to some "church" if the buildings were misused or other conditions not followed. This latter rumor has no basis.)

MISCELLANEOUS MORSELS: The charming ladies who valiantly tried to make themselves heard from atop a table in the law club dining hall were pushing a dance. Mosher Hall is having an open house tonight (Friday) at 8:30, and we are invited....Those who are particularly eager to pick up a copy of the Res Gestae while they're hot can usually do so by 3:15 p.m. every Friday at room 100. Juniors and Freshmen who would like to join the staff, see Roger Wolf (D-11), Director of Personnel. Or see Dave Serotkin.

REMINDERS: Sartorial: in the event that some of the boarders at the Lawyers Club hadn't noticed, coats and ties and dress shirts are the order of the day at dinner. Libro cerrado no saco letrado: those who have borrowed and forgotten books from the modest lending library in the Lawyers Club lounge, please return them. It's an honor system. Automotive: cars are not to be driven across the law quad.

AT THE FRAT:

TER: Sports report: Second place in bowling; Lost in first place playoffs to Nu Sigma Nu; Stars were Joe McDade and Squire Cubitt

DELTS: Saturday a St. Pat's Party from 4 p.m. to 2 a.m.

PHIDS: Sunday a St. Pat's Party from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

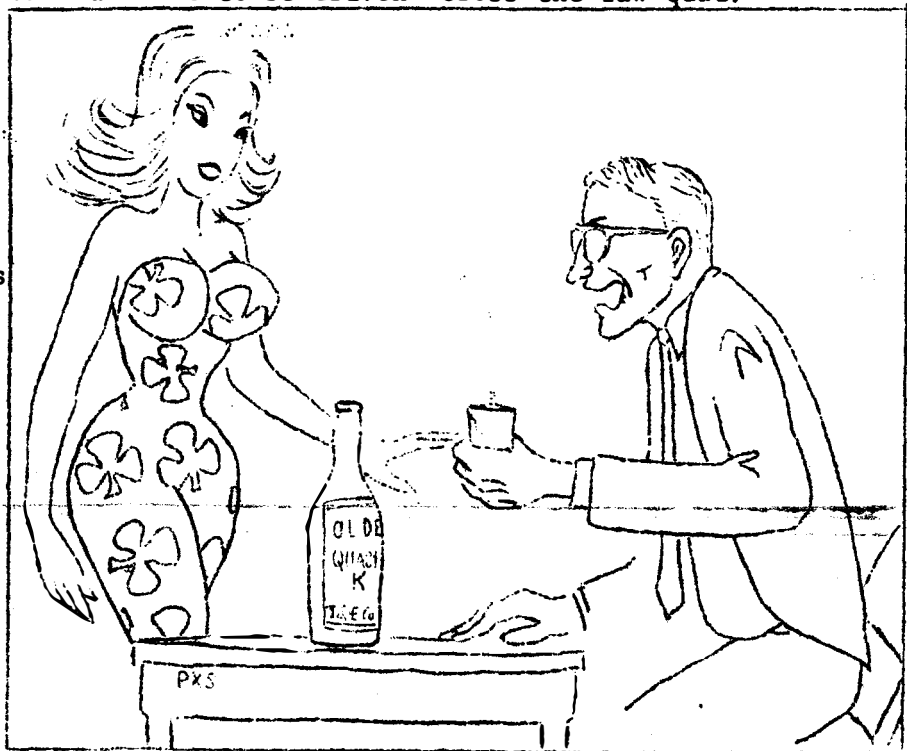
AT THE FLICKS:

Cinema Guild: Friday, "One Eyed Jacks"; Sat. & Sun, Bergman's "The Devil's Wanton."

Campus: "Carry On Teacher"

Michigan: "Diamond Head"

State: "Taras Bulba"



"ONLY A DAMNED FOOL WOULD PASS UP A CHANCE TO TWIST".

QUADSVILLE QUOTES

Legal studies sharpen, indeed, but like a grinding stone narrow whilst they sharpen.

- Samuel Taylor Coleridge

My constitution was destroyed long ago; now I'm living under the bylaws.

- Clarence Darrow.